Applicant : Ehret et al.
Serial No. : 10/815,131
Filed : March 31, 2004
Page : 2 of 11

Attorney's Docket No.: 13906-0180001/2004P00204 US

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method comprising:

receiving at a computer system a first scheduling request for a resource, the first scheduling request specifying that the resource is to be scheduled for a requested amount of time sometime within a requested time period, the requested amount of time being less than a maximum time amount that the resource is usable during the requested time period, wherein due to the first scheduling request the resource has an availability for the requested time period less than one hundred percent;

receiving at the computer system a second scheduling request for the resource that refines the first scheduling request, the second scheduling request specifying that a portion of the requested amount of time is to be scheduled in a specific time slot within the requested time period, the portion of the requested amount of time being less than the requested amount of time;

scheduling by the computer system in an electronic schedule the portion of the requested amount of time in the specific time slot, wherein scheduling the portion of the requested amount of time causes the availability of the resource for the specific time slot to be zero percent; and

scheduling by the computer system in the electronic schedule a remaining portion of the requested amount of time within the requested time period except within the specific time slot, wherein scheduling the remaining portion of the requested amount of time causes the availability of the resource for a remaining portion of the requested time period to be greater than zero percent and less than one hundred percent.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the resource is a person that provides a service, a machine, a tool, or a workstation.

3-4.   (Canceled).

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first scheduling request specifies that the resource is to be scheduled for a predetermined number of hours within the requested time period that includes a specific date range.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the second scheduling request refines the first scheduling request by requesting that a portion of the predetermined number of hours from the first scheduling request is to be scheduled for the specific time slot on a specific date within the date range.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein scheduling in the electronic schedule is done to determine a utilization of the resource.

8.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product tangibly embodied in a computer-readable storage medium ~~an information carrier~~, the computer program product including instructions that when executed cause a processor to perform operations comprising:

receive at a computer system a first scheduling request for a resource, the first scheduling request specifying that the resource is to be scheduled for a requested amount of time sometime within a requested time period, the requested amount of time being less than a maximum time amount that the resource is usable during the requested time period, wherein due to the first scheduling request the resource has an availability for the requested time period less than one hundred percent;

receive at the computer system a second scheduling request for the resource that refines the first scheduling request, the second scheduling request specifying that a portion of the requested amount of time is to be scheduled in a specific time slot within the requested time period, the portion of the requested amount of time being less than the requested amount of time;

schedule by the computer system in an electronic schedule the portion of the requested amount of time in the specific time slot, wherein scheduling the portion of the requested amount of time causes the availability of the resource for the specific time slot to be zero percent; and

schedule by the computer system in the electronic schedule a remaining portion of the requested amount of time within the requested time period except within the specific time, wherein scheduling the remaining portion of the requested amount of time causes the availability of the resource for a remaining portion of the requested time period to be greater than zero percent and less than one hundred percent.

9.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the executable instructions, when executed, further cause a resource planning application to receive at the computer system all time slots in which the resource is usable within the requested time period.

10   (Canceled).

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving at the computer system all time slots in which the resource is usable within the requested time period according to resource's availability information stored in a database.

12   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the resource's availability information is maintained as a set of time intervals in the database.

13.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

referring by the computer system to resource's availability information to verify that the availability of the resource for the specific time slot on the specific date is sufficient for the second scheduling request.

Applicant : Ehret et al.
Serial No. : 10/815,131
Filed : March 31, 2004
Page : 5 of 11

Attorney's Docket No.: 13906-0180001/2004P00204 US

14.   (Canceled).

15.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the first scheduling request and the second scheduling request are received from a same source.

16.   (Previously Presented)   The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the first scheduling request and the second scheduling request are received from a same source.

17.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the first scheduling request comprises a non-concrete scheduling request that causes the resource to be non-concretely reserved to perform the specific task for the requested amount of time anytime within the requested time period.

18.   (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the second scheduling request comprises a concrete scheduling request that causes the non-concrete scheduling request to be refined such that resource is concretely reserved to perform a portion of the specific task within the specific time slot.

19.   (New) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the first scheduling request comprises a non-concrete scheduling request that causes the resource to be non-concretely reserved to perform the specific task for the requested amount of time anytime within the requested time period.

20.   (New) The computer program product of claim 19, wherein the second scheduling request comprises a concrete scheduling request that causes the non-concrete scheduling request to be refined such that resource is concretely reserved to perform a portion of the specific task within the specific time slot.

Applicant : Ehret et al.
Serial No. : 10/815,131
Filed : March 31, 2004
Page : 6 of 11

Attorney's Docket No.: 13906-0180001/2004P00204 US

21. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the first scheduling request is for the resource to perform a specific task and wherein the second scheduling request specifies that a portion of the requested amount of time for the resource to perform the specific task is to be scheduled in the specific time slot within the requested time period.